

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY
OFFICE OF FISCAL AND MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS**

301 State House
(317) 232-9855

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 7998

BILL NUMBER: HB 1931

DATE PREPARED: Jan 9, 2001

BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: Various election matters.

FISCAL ANALYST: Chris Baker

PHONE NUMBER: 232-9851

FUNDS AFFECTED: X **GENERAL
DEDICATED
FEDERAL**

IMPACT: State & Local

Summary of Legislation: The bill makes the following changes to the election laws:

- (1) Establishes a statewide election day minimum per diem of \$200 for inspectors and \$150 for other poll workers.
- (2) Requires the Election Division to maintain a statewide voter registration file accessible by the election division and county voter registration offices through a secure Internet connection.
- (3) Requires an applicant registering to vote to provide the last four digits of the applicant's Social Security number.
- (4) Provides for various forms of identification to establish a voter's identity at the polls. Permits a voter to execute a statement of identity, under penalties for perjury, if a voter cannot otherwise establish identity.
- (5) Changes the hours that the polls are open to 7 a.m. to 9 p.m.
- (6) Provides that the canvassing of election results occur on the day after each election day.
- (7) Repeals certain provisions concerning public and news media access to precinct election results on election day.

Effective Date: July 1, 2001.

Explanation of State Expenditures: *Provision (2)* Currently, the Election Division of the Secretary of State maintains a temporary database which annually requires compilation. Any updates or error corrections require a complete rebuilding of the database.

In order to comply with the bill's provisions, the Division would require a centralized repository database server to support the submission, management, and reporting of voter registration data. Based on a report from Quest Information Systems completed for the Division, it is estimated that the expenditures for such a system could range between \$100,000 and \$236,000 in the first year of implementation: FY 2002. In addition to this expenditure, several other expenditures would be required for proper implementation of a voter registration information system including: detail system design, application development, additional storage, documentation and training, and system administration/support. These additional expenditures could increase the total cost to a range of \$700,000 to \$830,000 in FY 2002. Of these costs, the system administration and support would be ongoing at approximately \$150,000 per year. The cost for administration and support could vary depending if the support staff were outsourced through a private contractor, or if the Division were authorized to hire the necessary staff. The estimate assumes that required connection to the Internet from the Election Division is already in place.

The processing of submissions by counties of voter registration data could be performed by Election Division staff or handled by contract with an outside vendor.

Provision (3) Currently the voter registration form requests the Social Security number of an individual as allowed under the federal Privacy Act of 1974 (U.S.C. 552a). A space is provided on the voter registration form for this information. This bill requires an applicant to provide the last four digits of the applicant's Social Security number on a voter registration form. This provision will require a change in the current form. The cost of changing and printing the form can be done within the current budget.

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures: *Provision (1)* It is likely that several counties could be required to increase expenditures under this bill, for precinct election board members. The following table illustrates a sample of counties by per diem and meal allowance:

County	Per Diem*
Marion**	Inspectors: \$90 Other Members: \$50
Marshall	Inspectors: \$115 Other Members: \$50
Warren	Inspectors: \$115 Other Members: \$85
Lake	Inspectors: \$110 Judges/Clerks \$60 Sheriffs \$60
Kosciusko***	Inspectors: \$115 Judges/Clerks \$95
Johnson	Inspectors: \$150 Other Members: \$100

* Including food allowance and training were applicable

** Temporarily increased per diem by \$20 for 2000 General Election.

*** Eliminated Sheriffs

The bill would require the minimum per diem set at \$200 for inspectors and \$150 for other poll workers.

Using Marion County as an example and assuming every precinct election office were filled, the additional expense to Marion County for its 914 voting precincts would be \$191,940 per election or primary: [(\$200-\$90)+(\$150-\$50)]*914 = \$191,940.

Provision (2) Counties could experience start-up costs for an Internet browsing PC or workstation and a printer, and ongoing costs for Internet access fees. Quest Information estimates the cost could be \$6,400 to a county without any of the above components. In addition, approximately \$1,200 to \$1,500 in expenditures could be required if counties need software modifications in order to comply with the State repository/database.

The Election Division currently estimates one third of the counties would require all of the components above and could face expenditures of approximately \$8,000. Another third of counties have the equipment necessary, but lack Internet Access and could have expenditures ranging from \$1,200 to \$1,500. Roughly another third, including larger counties such as Marion, Lake, and Allen, have all of the components required to send data already and would require minimal expense.

The State of Indiana has offered in the past used PC's at a substantial discount to qualified entities. If a county were to qualify, and the PC acquired were able to accept Windows 95 software, potentially some expenditure could be saved.

Provision (5): The county executive is allowed by state statute to fix a per diem and a meal allowance for work performed on election day by the above listed officers. For municipal elections, a town fiscal body fixes compensation.

In addition, an inspector can receive additional compensation for the duties of acquisition and return of election supplies to the Circuit Court Clerk's Office.

Changes to local expenditures would depend on the decision of each County Executive or town fiscal body on whether to increase the election day per diem to account for the additional amount of voting hours, as the bill requires. However, as the bill mandates the minimum per diem of polling workers, the expenses could increase for a county. An increase in expenses that are not personnel related, due to this provision, would also depend on each precinct's requirements for use of election supplies and facilities for the additional amount of voting hours, as the bill requires. The current amount of precincts in Indiana is 5,530.

Provision (7) The repeal of these provisions may save county election boards and circuit court clerks some minor administrative expenditures, such as providing forms to the precinct election officers for the preparation of releasing voter results to the media

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: Indiana Election Division.

Local Agencies Affected: Counties, Towns, Precincts.

Information Sources: Bruce Northern, Lori Hershberger, Indiana Election Division, (317) 232-3939; Wendy Davis, Administrator, Marion County Election Board, 327-5117; Patty Jones, Voter Registration, Marshall County Circuit Court Clerk's Office, (219) 935-8713; Carolyn Weston, Warren County Clerk, (765) 762-3510; Angela Sheppard, Lake County Election Board, (219) 755-3443; Ann Torpy, Kosciusko County Clerk's

Office, (219) 372-2332; Amy Richhart, Johnson County Clerk's Office, (317) 736-3708.